

# THE *Final Straw*

A WEEKLY ANARCHIST SHOW

The Final Straw is a weekly anarchist and anti-authoritarian radio show bringing you voices and ideas from struggle around the world. You can send us letters at:

**The Final Straw Radio**  
PO Box 6004  
Asheville, NC 28816 USA

Email us at:  
**[thefinalstrawradio@riseup.net](mailto:thefinalstrawradio@riseup.net)**  
or **[thefinalstrawradio@protonmail.com](mailto:thefinalstrawradio@protonmail.com)**

To hear our past shows for free, visit:  
**[thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org](http://thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org)**

To support transcription and zine-making efforts which are funded by donations, visit:  
**[thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/donate](http://thefinalstrawradio.noblogs.org/donate)**  
or via Patreon: **[patreon.com/tfsr](https://patreon.com/tfsr)**  
or via LiberaPay, which does not take a cut of the payments:  
**[liberapay.com/The-Final-Straw-Radio](https://liberapay.com/The-Final-Straw-Radio)**



**RUSSIAN  
ANTI-WAR  
SABOTEUR  
RUSLAN  
SIDDIQUI**

The Final Straw Radio - February 4, 2024

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 2:** Apart from writing letters, is there other opportunities to support Ruslan and/or your work as Solidarity Zone?

**ANYA:** Maybe the easiest way to support Ruslan directly is to donate for his legal fees, for his lawyer, because right now we are running a fundraiser for the lawyer. Yeah. Legal defense in Russia is the most important for us, as a group, because we get to have connection with people in prison without censorship and have the possibility to organize solidarity and show that person isn't left alone. Emotional support.

Also, a good lawyer has the ability to tell people outside of prison about tortures, and about bad conditions. It's a really common thing that prison staff don't do something directly against political prisoners, but just putting them in such living conditions, when for example, there is no piece of glass in the window and with the winter starting and doing such since that make the life more difficult.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** Is there anything else you think is important to say about the case of Ruslan or about your work in general? The previous question was also how to support you directly?

**ANYA:** Actually, there are not many possibilities from outside of Russia, because when we write posts in social media in Russian, we also ask people to send parcels to the pretrial detention center. Because it's not limited yet, like in prison. Because in prison there are very few packages you may receive a year. For prisoners, there are only two possibilities to write letters and to donate for certain campaigns. Of course, spreading information is very important. It's also kind of protection for prisoners and for us also.

About supporting us, the first option is financial support. We have a Patreon page. We know that Patreon offers a lot of fees, so for people who would like to donate to us, we are really happy when somebody organize events in solidarity with us and finds some ways to avoid Patreon. Also, spreading information, calling us in to events, also great support.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 2:** Thanks a lot for the interview. A lot of respect for the people in Russia fighting back and or trying every way possible to fight back. We have respect for your work. Thanks a lot. A lot of strength for you.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** Yeah, from me, too. Thank

**ANYA:** Thank you. And thank you for the invitation.

**ANYA:** We know from his friends that he's an anarchist. He has a lot of interests that can be topics for letters to him, but we haven't established strong contact with him yet, so we don't have any letter exchanges. It was just more technical visits from lawyers. For now, we can say very little about his political views, about his personality. I think it should be possible during the so-called investigation. Because in the beginning Ruslan faces the most pressure from security services from the prison staff. In other cases, we see that after several months of detention, it becomes easier, and it starts to be possible to ask a lawyer to talk with this prisoner to ask him or her about interests about political statements or something that person would like to spread outside of prison.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** What charges is Ruslan facing? How many years of imprisonment could he receive?

**ANYA:** He is accused on two articles. It's always difficult for me to count years, I guess, up to 20. Because the first one is terrorist act, and second one is keeping explosives.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** In several languages, in the articles about the case, people can also find an address to write letters to Ruslan. At the same time, there is this relatively new law, which makes it problematic or nearly illegal to communicate with foreigners. Because it could be counted as a traitor-ship of the country. Does it still make sense for people who are not in Russia to write letters for political prisoners?

**ANYA:** Sorry, I didn't understand which law do you mean? Confidential?

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** Confidential interactions with foreigners. Which can make it illegal to communicate.

**ANYA:** This is mostly used against people who are free to make more criminal cases, but I don't know. I can't remember if between prisoners even mentioned that.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** From your perspective, then it still makes sense to write letters?

**ANYA:** Of course. But the point here is that censorship in Russian prisons only allows letters in Russian, so you need to use online translator or to ask someone who speaks Russian to translate the letter. There are a couple of services that are still quite good, working with foreign telephone numbers, foreign bank accounts, prison mail and a bit more complicated with telecom. There are two services where it is possible to use from outside of Russia.

## Russian Anti-War Saboteur Ruslan Siddiqui

This is an interview from our comrades at Frequenz-A in so-called Germany with a recent interview of Anya of the grassroots group called Solidarity Zone that offers legal, media and other support to people facing charges for anti-war direct actions inside of Russia to speak about their work and the case of Ruslan Siddiqui, an anarchist who does not deny railway sabotage against the Russian war efforts in Ukraine. This first aired on episode 75 of B(A)D News: Angry Voices From Around The World from the A-Radio Network.

### Solidarity Zone Links

- Facebook: [facebook.com/solidarityzone](https://facebook.com/solidarityzone)
- Telegram: [t.me/solidarity\\_zone](https://t.me/solidarity_zone)
- Patreon: [patreon.com/solidarity\\_zone](https://patreon.com/solidarity_zone)
- LinkTree: [linktr.ee/solidarity\\_zone](https://linktr.ee/solidarity_zone)
- Email: [solidarity\\_zone\(at\)riseup.net](mailto:solidarity_zone@riseup.net)

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** Hi, first of all, thank you for finding time to talk with us. Maybe you can introduce yourself as you like with your preferred name, pronouns, and affiliation, which makes sense for our talk today?

**ANYA:** I'm Anya, a member of a group called Solidarity Zone.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** Can tell a little bit about what Solidarity Zone is?

**ANYA:** Solidarity Zone is grassroots initiative that provides legal, humanitarian, and media help to those arrested for anti-war direct action in Russia. It can be setting fire on administrative buildings and military recruitment offices, it can be railroad sabotage, and similar actions against Russian war machine and government.

We appeared first, as a group of friends each of us were already involved in Prisoner support before the full-scale invasion into Ukraine. After 24th of February 2022, we noticed in the news that some actions, anti-war actions were not meeting the criteria for support of liberal human rights organizations. They didn't organize defense for people who committed radical actions against the war. So, we decided to make an informal group to defend several people that we found in pretrial detention centers.

Then more such cases appeared, and we realize that we needed to call ourselves somehow and create social media accounts to spread the word about these prisoners, and about these kinds of protests, because on the one hand, it's pretty dialyzed by different groups, actually.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 2:** Yes, thanks for this brief explanation about what Solidarity Zone is doing. Hello from my side as well. Today we want to specifically talk about the case of Ruslan Siddiqui. Maybe you can explain to our listeners what the case is about?

**ANYA:** We heard about his case, because a friend of Ruslan sent us mail with information about his arrest. After that we sent a lawyer to Ruslan and through the lawyer asked him to tell us a bit more about his case and about his position.

After that we, together with Ruslan and his friends who contacted us, decided to organize his support together.

Ruslan is accused, and he doesn't deny these accusations, he derailed 19 carriages of a cargo train in Ryazan region. He made self-made explosives in two spots on the railway and watched it through the camera he installed near the railroad. He was waiting for when the cargo train, military supply train, passed this part of railway and then blow the rails and derail the train. Actually, his plan was to destroy the rails and stop the movement of military supply trains. But the train which was derailed by Ruslan wasn't used by the Russian military.

This part of the railroad was destroyed and the damage according to Russian Railway Company, was named like 30 million rubles and it took time to restore the movement of cargo trains in this area. Pro-government media announced after Ruslan's arrest, that he also organized a drone attack on military airport from where aircrafts go in to provide the bombs for Russian military in Ukraine. But officially, this case has not yet started, and the accusation isn't yet official.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 2:** So that means it was only published in the media, he hasn't received any formal accusation about the airbase case so far?

**ANYA:** I think we should wait because sometimes when pro-government media publishes something, it then appears in criminal cases. So, we can't unfortunately, say that it won't be in the future.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 2:** From my point of view, it's a strong position to not deny the accusations about the derailment. Is it because there is so much evidence that he's not able to deny it any way or is it also a political position? Is he saying that these kinds of actions are something you should stand for because of his ideology or his beliefs?

**ANYA:** I can't say for sure, but I think it's mostly about his position. In several cases, actually, persons who are in trial now, from the very beginning of their case, they claim actions. I think in the case of Ruslan, it should be the same. Maybe it's important to say that it can be several hours between real arrest and the official arrests. This time is very often used by the security service, like FSB, or cops, for torturing people and beating them to get a confession, witnessing against themselves. I think it can be also part of the reason why people sign documents with these accusations.

**FREQUENZ-A HOST 1:** Talking about the political perspective, since you didn't mention it, but in different articles it is mentioned that Ruslan is an anarchist. Has he made some statements out of prison?